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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039844

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SECOND BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES

1. SECRETARY'S SECOND BILATERAL CONVERSATION WITH VIGNES TOOK PLACE AT 11 P.M., FEBRUARY 22 IN VIGNES' HOTEL SUITE. ALSO PRESENT FOR THE U.S. WERE EDWARD LITTLE (ARA) AND DONALD BARNES (INTERPRETER). VIGNES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ORFILA AND AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY DE LA PLAZA. MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL, AND DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO U.S. SUBSIDIARIES QUESTION AND GENERAL U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

2. VIGNES OPENED THE MEETING BY RAISING PROBLEM OF SALES TO CUBA BY U.S. SUBSIDIARIES IN ARGENTINA. HE SAID GOA HAD BEST GOOD WILL TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BUT HAD NOT AS YET FOUND A SOLUTION. HE STATED THAT ARGENTINA CANNOT HAVE ANY CONDITIONS PLACED ON SALE OF GOODS TO CUBA AND COMMENTED THAT THIS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH COULD AFFECT U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM BUT ON OUR SIDE HE NEEDS TIME, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR DOMESTIC SITUATION, TO SEE WHAT CAN POSSIBLY BE DONE. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS NOT ABLE
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NOW TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE MATTER AND ASKED VIGNES TO SEND HIM A PERSONAL MESSAGE SHOULD GOA INTEND TO TAKE ANY

UNILATERAL STEP ON THIS QUESTION. VIGNES SAID THAT HE

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WOULD REPORT THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS TO PERON ON HIS RETURN TO BA AND AGREED THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE SECRETARY BEFORE ANYTHING WAS DONE.

3. SECRETARY SAID THAT THE U.S. HAS A SERIOUS INTENTION TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. HE SAID THAT HE HAD WANTED TO VISIT ARGENTINA HAD HE MADE A PLANNED LATIN AMERICAN TRIP WHICH WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUAION. VIGNES RESPONDED THAT ARGENTINA WANTS ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. TO HAVE PROPORTIONS NEVER ATTAINED BEFORE, ADDING THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING THE SECRETARY IN ARGENTINA.

4. AT END OF MEETING BOTH SECRETARY AND VIGNES AGREED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE CUBA TRADE PROBLEM. CASEY

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